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**State Launches Annual Anti-DUI Campaign**  
*December is Drunk & Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month*

(Sacramento, CA) — To raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving, the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) will once again launch the state's annual **Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month** this December.

Last year in California, 1,233 people were killed and more than 30,000 were injured in alcohol-related crashes – nearly a 4 percent increase over 1999. While California remains a leader in fighting DUI-related crashes, more work still lies ahead to help the country achieve the national goal of reducing alcohol-related deaths from 16,653 in 2000 to 11,000 by the year 2005.

“One of a CHP officer's toughest jobs is informing someone that they lost a loved one due to a drunk driving crash,” said CHP Commissioner D.O. “Spike” Helmick. “The greatest tragedy is that alcohol-related crashes are 100 percent preventable. We all have a role to play in fighting impaired driving and the life you save could be your own.”

During this year's 3D Month campaign, the OTS and CHP will partner once again with the California Restaurant Association to help encourage Californian's to celebrate responsibly during the holiday season.

“We want to remind people that the holidays are a time for safe celebrations,” said Teresa Becher, OTS Interim Director. “Now, more than ever, Californians are concerned about the safety of their loved ones. The best gift that you can give a loved one is keeping everyone safe. That means safe at home and on the roadways.”

(more)

Additionally, the OTS and CHP will work closely with law enforcement agencies, schools, businesses and community-based organizations to use the cooperative efforts of hundreds of individuals to help fight impaired driving. The public is encouraged to join these efforts by educating their local community about the perils of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The OTS provides the following tips to help fight impaired driving in your community:

- Always designate a driver whenever alcohol is served.
- Never serve alcohol to a minor.
- Educate school children about the dangers of impaired driving.
- Support your local law enforcement's efforts to fight impaired driving.
- Provide non-alcoholic beverages at holiday celebrations.

For more information regarding California's 3D Month campaign, please visit [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov).

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*\*Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2000 provisional data.*